



EMILY PROCTOR

ALEK KRISTOPHER

THE LOVERS

A FILM BY PARKER KEYE EISEN

SYNOPSIS



Jon and Louise, a couple living in a leaky apartment, struggle with their relationship and material conditions.

Louise is a server who is the sole income provider while Jon studies Marx's Capital.

Beginning to lose her way, Louise cheats on Jon.



DIRECTORS STATEMENT

FROM PARKER KEYE EISEN

The Lovers is my debut feature film. It was shot in five days with a crew of nine people in one, hot, sweaty room. The film chronicles Jon and Louise, two passive lovers who are unable to deal with the conflict central to their relationship: should we stay together or break up? Their environment is hot, sweaty, and hazy--just like the set of the film. The atmosphere of the set bleeds into the atmosphere of the film and vice-versa. The film is slow, aching, and contemplative--Tarkovsky meets Bergman meets Mike Leigh. A romantic drama uninterested in the fighting, yelling, and action typically tied to the genre, rather, The Lovers is interested in space, environment, and the emotion of the characters.

Much of the idea stemmed from my desire to control every aspect of the image. Design, dress it, and light it with intent. And that's what we did. I began by disassembling the room above my parents garage, from scraping off wallpaper, ripping up carpets, laying down a hardwood floor made from pallet wood, to painting and building the walls. The Lovers is tactile, hand made with blood, sweat, and tears. Lots of sweat. We were sweating all the time, yet the cast and crew pushed forward. This all to say that the film has a certain texture that comes from the dedication of everyone connected to the production.

I hope for this to carry over to the atmosphere of the film, where as the camera aches through the space, the audience feels the characters pain, confusion, and emotions. The film takes on a slow aesthetic to force the audience into exhaustion and anxiety of waiting for something to happen. Of waiting for Jon to confront Louise. Of waiting for Louise to Leave Jon. Of waiting for Louise to come home. Of waiting for these characters to express themselves, to say what they want. Passivity and confusion is embodied by the watchful eye of the camera, as the walls of the room begin to contemplate the domestic drama of these characters whose perspectives are so wide, yet so warped.

I can only hope the film confronts the audience in this way so that they can discover, create, and live in the world of the characters. I want the audience to draw their own conclusions, not through emotional manipulation, but through the bleeding of their own lives of Jon and Louise. To be hypnotized, frustrated and annoyed by the continuous sound of a leak dripping into a pot until they find themselves trapped, unable to leave the room.







It was made with economics in mind--both literally and thematically. Literally, we had no money. I had to cobble together the set with pallet wood, scraps, cheap paint, and my dad's tools. Long takes are not only a creative decision, but less set-up allows for the honing in of one shot, perfecting every aspect, performance, movement, etc. versus multiple sloppy set-ups. My producer Varun and I put up the dough for our meager budget, everyone else in the cast & crew gave their labor to it. The Lovers is a collective effort.

The film thematically examines how the capitalist system affects the lives of Jon and Louise. An idea not present on the surface, for the effects of capitalism are rooted in society. Financial struggles are the ultimate effect in a system of exploitation for a young couple like them, but Jon is beginning his dive into examining the system, the way it pokes and prods its way into your life whether you like it or not. His obsession with the U.S. Military pillaging other countries is a brief entry way into this theme, how the effects of imperialism are rattling around in his brain so much so that he forgets his relationship in front of him. Louise, on the other hand, is so plagued by work to support them that she can barely stand stomach politics anymore; she is over-worked in the abusive restaurant environment. Both are stuck in their own forms of toxic alienation that Capital pushes people to. Jon is shackled up, unable to even look for a job while Louise has to find pleasure and solace in another man. The Lovers is the tragic story of capitalism intervening into the domestic lives of two people who once loved each other.





THE LOVERS

PRODUCTION INFO

JON...ALEK KRISTOPHER
LOUISE...EMILY PROCTOR

PRODUCED BY 640 FILMS
DISTRIBUTED BY THE LOVERS FILM LLC.

PRODUCED, WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PARKER KEYE EISEN
CINEMATOGRAPHER...BRENNAN HUIZINGA
EDITOR...ZOE KISSEL
ORIGINAL SCORE BY...RYAN POWELL
PRODUCTION SOUND...DYLAN KISSEL
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR...SPENCER SWENSON
MAKEUP ARTSIT...MAMIE BLESSING
DOLLY GRIP...ALEX LEON
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT...CHRISTINA THOMAS
PRODUCER...VARUN RAMADHYANI

UNITED STATES
ENGLISH
RUNTIME 70 MINUTES
COLOR
ASPECT RATIO 1.85
4K DCP
STEREO MIX



PARKER KEYE EISEN

PRODUCTION DESIGNER, PRODUCER, WRITER, DIRECTOR



Writer/Director Parker Eisen believes that encounters with art can become events in our lives.

Moved by the likes of Tarkovsky, Bresson, and Bergman; Parker strives to create films permeated with a quiet richness. Allowing ambience, space and time to fill the frame and bring the audience into a serene encounter.

He graduated from Michigan State University in 2020 with a degree in Film Studies and English. He currently lives in Haslett, MI with his partner Emily, and their cat Ingrid.

His future work aims to explore the intersection of political economy, and spirituality.

ALEK KRISTOPHER

JON



Alek Kristopher is a Michigan-born actor and artist. He didn't begin to study the craft until his college years at Michigan State University but has found a fast-burning passion for the art of storytelling through being. The Lovers is his second project with 640 Films. He is so appreciative of the opportunities 640 Films has brought forth, and even more so, he appreciates the ever-growing development of strong genuine relationships with the profound individuals that make these projects come to life. He wouldn't be the artist he is today without his mother, his Nana, his Aunt Doo, and a close-knit group of friends and collaborators. When he's not acting, he can often be found spending time with his six younger siblings, reading a Chuck Palahniuk book, or going for a jog around the neighborhood. Alek has so much gratitude for director, Parker Eisen, and fellow actress, Emily Proctor, for trusting, believing, and putting their heart and mind on the line for this story.

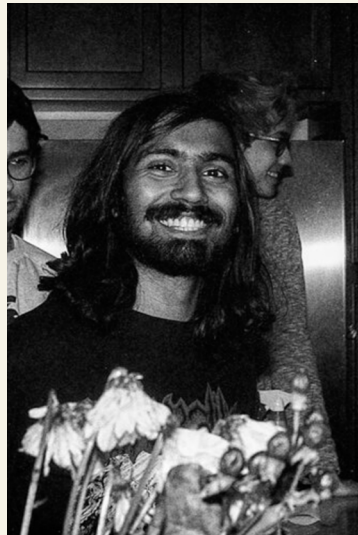
VARUN RAMADHYANI

PRODUCER, PRODUCTION MANAGER

Varun Ramadhyani is a reclusive filmmaker making outsider cinema that attempts to contrast a serene world with characters that suffer from profound confusion and inner turmoil.

After graduating from Michigan State University with a bachelors in material science and engineering, he moved to Baltimore to make use of his degree while crafting his scripts and planning his next filmmaking ventures.

find him talking endlessly about some Lovecraftian monsters, art-house classics, or 90's death metal demo's.



EMILY PROCTOR

LOUISE



Emily Proctor has been writing and acting since she was young and even published a book at 12 years old. Graduating with a BA in Communication, Media, and Theater Arts from Eastern Michigan University, she brings understanding and authenticity to each role. She thanks 640 Films for the opportunity.

Currently, Emily lives in Haslett, MI with her partner Parker, and their cat Ingrid.

BRENNAN HUIZINGA

CINEMATOGRAPHER, VISUAL EFFECTS



As a writer and director, Brennan's work is characterized by its vivid, imaginative storytelling, creating cinematic experiences that belie their modest budgets. Whether working on a feature-length film or a short, Brennan is always striving to push the boundaries of what's possible in the world of independent filmmaking.

Brennan's dedication to his craft has earned him numerous accolades, including an award in the world's largest online filmmaking competition. He takes inspiration from the films of the Coen Brothers, Terrence Malick, and The Movie Brats, and his work reflects a deep appreciation for the power of cinema to transport and transform.

With each new project, Brennan Huizinga continues to challenge himself and his audience, delivering films that are as entertaining as they are thought-provoking. He currently resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

RYAN POWELL

COMPOSER



Ryan is a composer from Ann Arbor, Michigan and currently based in Brooklyn, New York. With his work, he strives to bring strong creative, intuitive, and emotional sensibilities to novel projects. He has a sense for bringing out complex emotions through music, and for integrating with the fabric of picture and story.

His musical roots stem from the jazz/soul influence of Detroit, and the folk/indie influence of Ann Arbor. Recently, one of his pieces during his time as a NASA arts intern made its way onto Blue Origin's New Shepherd rocket and was heard in outer space. He is currently freelancing after recently having graduated from NYU with a master's degree in film scoring.

ZOE KISSEL

EDITOR, FIRST AC

Zoe Kissel is a video editor and creative communicator located in East Lansing, Michigan. After graduating from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media + Information, a concentration in Film + Media Production, and a minor in Documentary Production, Zoe now works as the Director of Communications at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, and as a freelance video editor and filmmaker. Her documentary film, Sh*t Saves the World, was awarded an Emmy Award by the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and was nominated for four additional Emmy Awards and awarded a Silver Telly Award. Sh*t Saves the World has recently signed with Motion Picture Exchange, a global film sales agency, for worldwide distribution.

Zoe is also a member of 640 Films where she's edited the films A Shadow Breathes, Atrophy, and most recently The Lovers.



DYLAN KISSEL

PRODUCTION SOUND

Dylan Kissel is an Audio Engineer and Filmmaker located in East Lansing, Michigan. Dylan graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Media and Information in 2020 and now is pursuing his M.A. Degree in Media and Information from Michigan State University.

Dylan is the head of production audio and the supervising sound editor for 640 Films. Dylan is also the audio engineer, sound designer, and co-creator of Broken Jaw Studios. As a filmmaker and audio engineer he has had the opportunity to work with many other hard working individuals to help create an artists true vision, while also ensuring high production values to the projects he is involved in.

In his free time, Dylan is a Teaching Assistant for the filmmaking courses at Michigan State University and works for SpartanVision, the video production arm of MSU Athletics.



SPENCER SWENSON

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR



Spencer Swenson is a Chicago based filmmaker/ photographer. His projects marry hedonia and melancholia, exploring the process of human decay and reconstruction in bleak and unforgiving environments.

MAMIE BLESSING

MAKEUP ARTIST



Mamie Blessing and is graduated from Full Sail University as Valedictorian of her class. She has a Bachelors in Computer Animation although I'm also skilled in graphic design, traditional art, as well as 3D Modeling. She is currently located in Austin, Texas.

ALEX LEON

DOLLY GRIP

Alex Leon, director of The Most Desirable (2019), Ratface: A Career in Movies (2022) Atrophy (upcoming), is an international traveler and a full-fledged Philadelphian. Alex lived in Tokyo, Japan and has visited over 30 countries.

While living in Tokyo, he developed an intimate appreciation for Cinema, specifically that of Akira Kurosawa and Robert Altman. These early cinema experiences along with all his traveling contribute to a unique and quirky vision. Using these sensibilities, he crafts movies with characters that are on a deep journey in search of something that they desperately needed.



CHLOE J. HARPST

FONT AND POSTER DESIGNER

Chloe Harpst is an artist based in the middle of the woods in West Michigan. She paints, draws, and takes photo and video. She is getting into writing and exploring new ways of working. She is currently doing a residency in brooklyn, New York, living and working outside of my typical environment to reflect, research, and explore new cultures and materials.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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